

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2011

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

Recently, the Congressional Victims Rights' Caucus was involved in a briefing hosted by the Coalition Addressing Trauma examining the mental health impact of violence and trauma on children. The discussion addressed the fact that many children are left in situations of prolonged and repeated abuse and neglect even when there are clear and profound warning signs that the child is in a dangerous situation.

Given the severity of this problem, as co-chairs of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, we encourage you to hold a summit to address the future of child welfare in the United States. There is a wealth of knowledge and leadership on this issue on the local, state, and federal levels. We believe it is important to bring leaders in this field together from all levels of government as well as the private sector to discuss innovative strategies to combat abuse and ensure this societal ill is squelched.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress